



PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

NOVA SCOTIA GENEALOGICAL SOURCES

COUNTY GUIDE SERIES

NO. 4 — PICTOU COUNTY

compiled by

Allan C. Dunlop



GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This booklet is part of the Nova Scotia Genealogical Sources County Guide Series. There are a total of nineteen guides in this series; one for each of the eighteen counties, and one for the City of Halifax. The contents of each guide will assist genealogical researchers by providing quick access via a standard list to specific sources available at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia (PANS).

Within each guide, the list is divided into Published Sources (published genealogies; published community/county histories; directories; and newspapers) and Manuscript Sources (papers of families and individuals; church registers; community records and unpublished histories; cemetery inscriptions; census records; education papers; land records; vital statistics; deeds; wills; and some map sources). Please note that some published sources are listed within the Manuscript Sources. All sources are followed by a PANS retrieval number. Visiting researchers should also consult the card indexes on the Second and Third Floors for new entries; and should note that the Biography and Genealogy indexes on the Third Floor will yield sources not covered by this guide series.

Two books recommended for genealogical research are: Julie Morris, Tracing Your Ancestors in Nova Scotia (3rd ed.; Halifax: PANS, 1987), a general guide to sources; and Terrence M. Punch, Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia (3rd ed.; Halifax: Petheric, 1983), a handbook outlining research methods and Nova Scotian sources. In addition, the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia has published various research sources, such as the series of Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers; see the inside back cover of this guide for details.

The PANS does not loan archival or library materials. The National Archives of Canada and the Genealogical Society of Utah (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, LDS), however, have microfilmed various Nova Scotian records, which are available through inter-institutional loan. For further details, contact the National Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3, and/or the nearest LDS Branch Library.

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NOVA SCOTIA GENEALOGICAL SOURCES

NO. 4 - PICTOU COUNTY

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains a map and list of genealogical sources for Pictou County available at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia (PANS). What was to become the County of Pictou was a part of Halifax County from 1759 until 1835. Pictou County was formed in 1835 and its boundaries have remained essentially unchanged since that time. At least three basic reference works should be consulted for a general historical background: George McLaren, The Pictou Book, Stories Of Our Past, 1954 (F106/P5/M22); J. P. MacPhie, Pictonians At Home and Abroad, Sketches of Professional Men and Women of Pictou County - Its History and Institutions, 1914 (F106/P5/M2); and George Patterson, A History of the County of Pictou , Nova Scotia, 1877 (F106/P5/P2).

PUBLISHED SOURCES

GENEALOGIES:

For a list of published genealogies see: Allan E. Marble, A Catalogue of Published Genealogies of Nova Scotian Families (CS88/N935/M312/1984).

COMMUNITY/COUNTY HISTORIES:

Place-Names and Places of Nova Scotia, 1967 (F90/N85/AR2N; copies also on Third Floor) provides brief but useful historical background on most Nova Scotian communities.

Bain, Janet C.	<u>History of Hopewell, N. S.</u> , 1979 (F5249/H791/B162).
Bridgeville Women's Institute	<u>A' gleann boidheach (Beautiful Valley)</u> , 1967 (V/F, Vol. 260, #27).
Cameron, Hazel G.	<u>Avondale and its people</u> , two pts., 1974 (F5259/A961/C182).
Cameron, James M.	<u>About New Glasgow</u> , 1962 (F5249/N54/C18). <u>More About New Glasgow</u> , 1974 (F5249/N54/C18/1974).
<u>Celebrating our heritage: the history of Westville</u> , 1986	(F5249/W538/C392).
Churchville Women's Institute	<u>History of Churchville, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, 1784-1984</u> , 1984 (V/F, Vol. 284, #18).
Cosh, Don	<u>Trenton, the first hundred years</u> , ca. 1979 (F5249/T795).
Cullen, Marie	<u>Along the Shore of Little Harbour, Pictou County, Nova Scotia</u> , 1984 (V/F, Vol. 281, #6).
Dorrington, Aubrey	<u>History of Stellarton</u> , 1976 (F5249/S824/D716).
Gordon, George Lawson	<u>River John, its pastors and people</u> , 1911 (F107/R52/G65).
Grant, James MacKay	<u>The Merchant of Marshy Hope</u> , 1977 (HF5391/S974/G762).
Grant, Robert	<u>East River Worthies</u> , 1895 (Micro: G763).
MacConnell, Margaret	<u>Meadowville, then and now</u> , 1987 (V/F, Vol. 254, #16).

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| MacIntosh, Kay | <u>A History of Merigomish</u> , 1972
(F5249/M56). |
| MacPherson, Alexander | <u>Highlights of the past about MacLellan's
Brook Community</u> , 1973 (F5249/M164/M172). |
| MacQuarrie, John | <u>Lansdowne (Battery Hill), Wilkins Grant,
Upper New Lairg sketches</u> , 1975
(F5204.9/M173). |
| Munro, Ruthy | <u>Pictou Island</u> , 1984 (V/F, Vol. 281, #3). |
| Murray, John | <u>The Scotsburn congregation</u> , 1925
(F107/Sco8). |
| Patterson, Frank | <u>John Patterson: The Founder of Pictou</u> ,
1955 (F106/P5/P27). |
| <u>The R. J.'s [River John]</u> | <u>Past and present: history and recipes</u> ,
n.d., (V/F, Vol. 227, #26). |
| Sherwood, Roland | <u>Pictou pioneers: A story of the first
hundred years in the history of the
Pictou Town</u> , 1973 (F5249/P61/S55). |
| <u>Thorburn, 1872-1972; a history of the village of Thorburn from
its days as the Vale Colliery to the
present day</u> | <u>1972 (F5249/T48).</u> |

DIRECTORIES:

- Hutchinson's Nova Scotia Directory for 1864-65 and 1866-67
(Micro: H978/N93).
- Lovell's Province of Nova Scotia Directory for 1871
(Micro: L899).
- McAlpine's Maritime Provinces Directory for 1870-71
(F129/M11/M33).
- McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory for 1868-69 (F91/N85/M11).
- McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory for 1890-97 (Micro: M114).

McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory for 1896 (Micro: M114).

McAlpine's Nova Scotia, Magdalen Islands and St. Pierre Directory for 1902 (Micro: M114).

McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory for 1907-08 (Micro: M114).

McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory for 1914-15 (Micro: M114).

New Glasgow Directory including Stellarton, Trenton, Westville, Pictou and Pictou County for the years 1919-20 (Micro: N547G).

Pictou County Towns Directory for 1951 (Micro: P611).

NEWSPAPERS:

Nova Scotia has a long history of newspaper publishing, dating from The Halifax Gazette of 1752. The PANS newspaper holdings are found in the Library on the Second Floor. To help locate the appropriate newspaper, please consult the Kardex and/or Union List of Newspapers. Several compilations of extracted vital statistics are available. To date, these are:

1. "Vital Statistics from The Christian Messenger 1837-1846" (Baptist newspaper), compiled by Jean Holder and Grace Hubley, and "1847-1858", compiled by Ruth and Ross Burgess (Micro: Places: Nova Scotia: Vital Statistics: Reels 1 and 2).
2. "Vital Statistics from The Presbyterian Witness", 1848-1857 and 1858-1864, compiled by L. Shirley McCormick (Micro: Places: Nova Scotia: Vital Statistics: Reels 3 and 4).
3. Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers (CD3649/935). See inside back cover for details.

4. An in-house listing of marriages and deaths extracted from early Pictou County newspapers, 1827-ca.1837 will be found on the Third Floor.

MANUSCRIPT SOURCES

PAPERS OF FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS:

Researchers should consult the Inventory of Manuscripts (Halifax: PANS, 1976), as well as the Genealogy and Biography card indexes on the Third Floor, to determine if there are entries for the specific families they are researching.

There are three collections which offer information on many Pictou County families: Edwin Bliss (MG 1, Volumes 2000-2058); Ada MacDonald (MG 1, Volumes 562-653) and Henry Ritchie (Micro: Places: Pictou County: Genealogies).

CHURCH REGISTERS:

All church registers are on microfilm (PANS Micro: Churches: community name) unless otherwise specified. If your family resided in an area before a church was constructed, check the records for neighbouring communities. Their church registers should be checked, especially for records in the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth centuries. It should be noted that very few registers of the Church of Scotland (Kirk) are held by PANS, although many areas of Pictou County were populated by settlers of the Kirk persuasion.

A card index arranged alphabetically by community is available in the grey Rolodex files on the Third Floor, and will provide the most up-to-date information on church records held at PANS. Access restrictions pertain to some church records. Abbreviations used: BP - Baptisms; BU - Burials; D - Deaths; and M - Marriages; Ang. - Anglican; Bapt. - Baptist; Meth. - Methodist; Presb. - Presbyterian; R.C. - Roman Catholic; Un. - United.

Abercrombie - Presb. (MG 100, Vol. 207, #7).

Barneys River - Presb. - BP 1813-1883; M 1812-1878
(MG 4, Vol. 8A).

Beaver Meadow - See Abercrombie.

Blanchard - Presb. - M 1817-1873 (Micro: MG 9, Vol. 93).

Blue Mountain - Presb. - BP 1844-1975; M 1919-1941 (scattered);
BU 1891-1921 (scattered).

Caribou River - Presb. - BP 1888-1950; D 1888-1947
(Micro: Churches: Pictou: Pictou Un.).

Gairloch - St. Andrew's Un. (Presb.) - BP 1833-1900, 1907-1977;
M 1933-1906, 1908-1975; BU 1857, 1901-1977.

Green Hill - Salem Presb. - BP 1864-1886; M 1864-1885;
BU 1864-1885.

Hopewell - See: West Branch, East River.

McLellan Mountain - Presb. - BP 1838-1907 (incomplete);
M 1838-1858.

Merigomish - St. Paul's Presb. - BP 1889-1928; M 1889-1935;
D 1889-1926.

New Glasgow - First Bapt. - Some vital statistics, 1874-1960.

New Glasgow - First Presb. - BP 1908-1971; M 1908-1972;
BU 1908-1972.

New Glasgow - James' Church Presb. - BP 1786-1804, 1836-1869,
1871-1908; M 1786-1815, 1848-1899, 1905-1908; BU 1832-1854,
1857-1908.

New Glasgow - St. George's Ang. - BP 1888-1969; M 1870-1969;
BU 1915-1969.

Pictou County - Church of Scotland, Presb. - M 1817-1873 (MG 100,
Vol. 207, #7).

Pictou - First Presb - BP 1918-1950 (Micro: Churches: Pictou:
Prince Street Presb.).

Pictou - Knox Presb. - BP 1850-1918 (Micro: Churches: Pictou:
Prince Street Presb.).

Pictou - Meth. - BP 1872-1926; M 1877-1927 (Micro:
Churches: Pictou: Prince Street Un.).

Pictou - Pictou Un. - BP 1872-1980; M 1827-1927, 1933-1980;
BU 1888-1980.

Pictou - Prince Street Presb. - BP 1824-1877, 1880-1908;
M 1886-1908; BU 1845-1870, 1886-1908.

Pictou - St. Andrew's Presb. - BP 1851-1980; M 1904-1980;
BU 1904-1980.

Pictou - St. James' Ang. - BP 1830-1930; M 1830-1944;
BU 1830-1933.

River John - Meth./Un. - BP 1855-1956; M 1855-1956;
BU 1914-1956 (Micro: Tatamagouche: Sharon Un.).

River John - St. John the Baptist Ang. - BP 1874-1980;
M 1874-1980; BU 1874-1979 (Micro: Pugwash: St. George's
Ang.).

Rogers Hill - St. John's Presb. - BP 1855-1907.

Salt Springs - St. Luke's Un. - M 1941-1979; BP 1945-1980;
BU 1941-1980 (Micro: Scotsburn: Un.).

Scotsburn - Presb. - BP 1866-1916; M 1899-1909; BU 1888-1910.

Scotsburn - Un. - BP 1915-1980; M 1941-1980; BU 1941-1980.

Stellarton - Christ Church Ang. - BP 1851-1975; M 1852-1952;
BU 1852-1975.

Stellarton - Sharon Un. - M 1864-1897; BU 1865-1897
(MG 4, Vol. 145).

Stellarton - Sharon Un. - BP 1860-1972; M 1867-1968;
BU 1866-1967.

West Branch, East River (Hopewell) - St. Columba Un. -
BP 1827-1978; M 1828-1980; BU 1941-1980.

West River and Green Hill - Presb. - BP 1886-1979; M 1886-1937;
D 1886-1938 (Micro: Green Hill: Salem Presb.).

Other churches which contain

vital statistics on Pictou County families:

Arisaig - R. C. - BP 1845-1875, 1862-1886, 1885-1921,
M 1845-1876.

Belfast, P. E. I. - Presb. - BP 1823-1849.

Dorchester (Antigonish) - Presb. - BP 1822-1853; M 1821-1846;
D 1825-1839 (Micro: Churches: Dorchester: Presb.).

Earlton - Presb. - BP 1844-1966; M 1844-1966; BU 1844-1961.

Tatamagouche - Presb. - BP 1852-1906; M 1854-1921;
BU 1853-1961.

West Bay - Presb. (indexed) - BP 1834-1959; M 1834-1975;
D 1887-1975.

COMMUNITY RECORDS:

Abercrombie	- History (MG 4, Vol. 216).
New Glasgow	- Historical notes (MG 4, Vol. 118).
Pictou	- Minutes, Prince Street Sabbath School, 1855 (MG 4, Vol. 123).
Scotch Hill	- History, 1803-1931 (MG 4, Vol. 139).

CEMETERIES:

The cemeteries collection includes transcripts of inscriptions from tombstones or grave markers, and cemetery company records. A card index arranged alphabetically by community is available in the beige Rolodex files on the Third Floor, and will provide the most up-to-date information on cemetery records held at PANS.

The Henry Ritchie list of cemeteries is the main source for Pictou County (Micro: MG 5, Vols. 9-11). A publication of some interest is James F. Smith, Duff cemetery: the forgotten people, 1984 (V/F, Vol. 243, #31).

CENSUS RECORDS:

Some census records for Pictou County have been published; see below.

The 1838 census for Pictou County is in geographical order by name of the community.

The census records for 1851 to 1891 are arranged by assigned districts, which are listed on the outside of the microfilm box. Valuable genealogical information, such as individual's name, sex, age, religion, occupation, ethnic origin, country or province of birth, and marital status, is given in the 1871, 1881 and 1891 census records.

REFERENCES: - 1770, Reels 3, 5 (F90/N85/AR2R/1934);
 - 1817, Reel 3 (HA747/N935/C396/1827);
 - 1838, Reels 4, 6, 8 (HA748/P611/1838);
 - 1851, Reels 11A, 11B (HA748/P611);

- 1861, Reels 19-20;
- 1871, Reels 56-58 (HA748/P611/S651);
- 1881, Reels 78-79;
- 1891, Reels 92-93.

See also: Microfilm Finding Aid - Miscellaneous - Census.

(Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

EDUCATION PAPERS:

The education papers, 1811-1893, include warrants for payments to trustees, general correspondence, statistical returns and reports, petitions, grants, abstracts, some minutes of the school boards, contracts, and attendance records. In the papers for the 1820s and 1830s, names and ages of pupils, names of parents or guardians, and lists of schools may be found.

REFERENCES: RG 14, Vols. 49-50; RG 14, Vols. 51-55 for Pictou Academy. Additional references to Pictou Academy will be found in Micro: Places: Pictou: Schools: Pictou Academy. See: Inventory of Manuscripts, p. 134, and RG 14 Finding Aid for detailed listings.

LAND PAPERS:

The PANS has microfilm copies of land papers and grants. The land papers include petitions for grants, survey warrants, survey descriptions, and grants, 1765-1914; coverage after ca. 1840 is sporadic. A surname card index is available; it is divided into two sections, 1765-1799 and 1800-1914. These

papers are of immense value to genealogists, since a petitioner may mention his county and country of birth, military service, and the number of children in the family (Micro: RG 20, Series "A", 94 reels). The PANS also has land grants from the Crown Lands Office, covering the years 1738-1962 (Micro: Places: Nova Scotia: Land Grants, 147 reels; index, A-G, Reel 1; H-Z, Reel 2). Another collection of petitions for land covers the period 1815-1890 (Micro: RG 20, Series "E", 17 reels; introduction and index on Reel 1). Ungranted petitions are also available (RG 20, Series "U", 5 reels; introduction and index on Reel 1). The Crown Lands papers offer supplementary information concerning land settlement (RG 20, Series "C", 186 vols.).

Subsequent land transactions after the initial grant are recorded as deeds. See Registry of Deeds information below.

VITAL STATISTICS:

Births (1864-1876):

This collection is on microfilm, and is indexed and arranged by county. The index is alphabetical by surname. Please copy the county name, year, page, and number of the index entry.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Reels 320-325 (index); RG 32, Series "WB", Reels 344-345 (registrations).
(Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

Deaths (1864-1877):

The provincial death registrations for Pictou County have been published: Stephen A. Bridges, Pictou County Death Records, Vol. 1, 1864-1869; Vol. 2, 1870-1874; Vol. 3, 1875-1877 (CS88/P585/B851).

This collection is also available in its original format, which is used in the same way as Births.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Reels 326-328 (index); RG 32,
 Series "WB", Reel 351 (registrations).
 (Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

Marriages (1864-1917):

This collection is used in the same way as Births. The index is, however, arranged first by county, then alphabetically by the individual's name; both brides and grooms are listed.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Reel 333 (index); RG 32,
 Series "WB", Reels 366-367 (registrations).
 (Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

Marriage Bonds (1763-1864):

This collection of bonds (a form of early licence sometimes used instead of calling the banns) is arranged by date and there is no surname index. A two-volume typed transcript is available near the Third Floor Desk.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Marriage Bonds, 13 reels.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS:

Once land was granted by the Crown, any subsequent transaction was recorded as a deed. The original deeds are at the Pictou County Registry of Deeds, Box 490, Pictou, Nova Scotia B0K 1H0. Microfilm copies of Pictou County deeds at PANS are: Deeds, 1771-1905 (with indices), all of which are located on the Second Floor. Please consult Finding Aid for individual reels.

PROBATE RECORDS:

Probate records include the will books, estate papers and supporting documents which enable the executors or appointed administrators to settle the estate. Original wills and estate papers are at the Registry of Probate, Box 1199, Pictou, Nova Scotia B0K 1H0. Microfilm copies of Pictou County probate records at the PANS are: Wills, 1811-1969, partially indexed; Letters of Administration, 1901-1968; Estate Papers, 1811-1940, indexed; Probate Acts, 1842-1969, indexed; and Letters Testamentary, 1901-1969; all of which are located on the Second Floor. Please consult Finding Aid for individual reels.

MAP SOURCES (FIFTH FLOOR):

The Ambrose F. Church Co. topographical maps of Nova Scotia counties were produced between 1865 and 1888; the one for Pictou County was done in 1867. These maps feature detailed plans of the various census districts and townships, including locations of buildings, names of occupants, transportation routes and various geographical markings.

In 1879, the J. H. Meacham Co. published an Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Pictou, Nova Scotia (O/S/F91/AT6/P5). This Atlas shows property ownership, mapped out, for the entire County. In addition, the Fifth Floor Map Division holds copies of town insets not found in the Atlas itself.

FIFTH FLOOR:

The Fifth Floor collections may be useful in providing information about how people of various time periods lived, what kind of clothing they wore, what their homes looked like, what stories they told their children, the music they played or listened to, what their daily routine was comprised of, etc. Pictures, photographs, maps, architectural plans, and film and sound recordings can portray these aspects of life and should not be overlooked. We suggest that you telephone the Fifth Floor prior to your visit, because the complex nature of their collections may require the archivists' assistance. Normal working hours there are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with limited service to pictures, photographs, maps and plans on Wednesday evenings.

NOTES

NOTES

GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

P.O. BOX 641, STATION M, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, B3J 2T3 CANADA

PUBLICATIONS:

- P-1 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1813-1822.
- P-2 A Catalogue of Published Genealogies of Nova Scotia Families.
- P-3 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1823-1828.
- P-5 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1769-1812
(also includes a Supplement to Years 1813-1822).
- P-6 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1829-1834.
- P-7 Baptisms, Marriages & Burials 1749-1768 for St. Paul's Church, Halifax (oldest English-speaking congregation in Canada).
- P-8 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1835-1839.
- P-9 In Which County? Nova Scotia Surnames from Birth Registers 1864-1877.
- P-10 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1840-1843.
- P-11 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1844-1847.
- P-12 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1848-1851.
- P-13 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1852-1854.

ALL OF THE ABOVE PUBLICATIONS ARE \$13.00 EACH

REFERENCE BOOKS:

- R-1 Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia, by Terrence M. Punch
(136 pages). \$10.00
- R-2 Tracing Your Ancestors in Nova Scotia, by Julie Morris
(11 pages). \$ 3.00
- R-6 A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada Before Confederation, by Donald Whyte (12,501 entries, 443 pages). \$23.00

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ATLAS OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES
PICTOU,
NOVA SCOTIA
Scale 7 Miles to an Inch

Scale
1 inch = 7 miles
1 cm = 0.43 miles